

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 18, 1989

Published Since 1877



Back row, left to right: Volunteers — Melissa Yates, Barbara Evans, Rose Anna Welch, Ona Mae Willingham, Katherine Bush, Ann Melton, Frances Downs, Marty Perkins, Trish Simmons. (Not Pictured, Lola M. Autry) Seated, left to right: Mis-

sionaries John and Sarah Perkins and their sons Luke, Grant and David; David and Barbara Murray and sons Seth and Adam; Lou Ann and Hal Lee who have been in France 27 years. (Photos by Lola Autry)



La Granderie, the meeting place at Etaules, France.



Volunteers Melissa Yates, Ona Willingham and Ann Melton sip coffee from bowls.



Trish Simmons, at right, Mississippi director of the VBS listens attentively to Zola Foshee. Seated to Zola's left is her husband Harold who is Director of Cooperative Planning for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Next to him is Bill Clark Thomas, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, English speaking, in Paris. The other three at the table are Dennis, Patrick, and Janey Barton who served in Saulxures-les-Nancy a suburb of Lyon.

## Mississippians in France Teacher. Teacher.

By Lola M. Autry

"Teacher. Teacher." Little voices called across the dining area and small hands waved from high chairs. Ann Melton and I were at La Granderie, a camp-type location in the village of Etaules, France — a place where Southern Baptist missionaries serving in France were having their annual Mission Meeting. The children calling us were in the youngest age group of MKs. We were their Vacation Bible School teachers. Older children greeted their teachers at meals also, even though they may have been in the class with them only a few minutes before.

Melissa Yates, Ona Mae Willingham, Marty Perkins, Barbara Evans, Frances Downs, Katherine Bush, Rose Anna Welch, Ann Melton and I, along with our director Trish Simmons, had come to Etaules as Volunteers in Missions from Mississippi.

The sun shone little those April days at Etaules. Its fleeting glimmer and a gathering of clouds served as backdrop each day for the nearby Catholic Church spire. The white of the buildings of La Granderie stood out sharply against the spring green of the park-like lawns. Most of the gardens at the homes in the little town were small, profuse with color, and well kept. Some were formal, most not. Tulips, calla lilies, lilac bushes, wisteria, hyacinths, and pansies were the most prevalent blossoms, rivaled by those of fruit trees.

In this setting we learned a lot about the work and lives of those we send overseas to represent our witness of

the Lord. We also found a new way of serving coffee. Breakfast, French country style, was not like ours. At each table the centerpiece consisted of a pitcher of apple juice, a pitcher of hot milk, and a pot of hot coffee. A basket held sliced French bread. Butter and marmalade accompanied the bread. No ham and eggs or bacon and eggs, although one morning the menu was enlarged with a boiled egg for each. The unusual part of the meal was not the food but the way of drinking the coffee. In a clear glass bowl, similar to a cereal bowl, we poured coffee then the same amount of milk, added sugar if we desired, and drank from the bowl. My grandfather used to sip coffee from a saucer; now, years later, we were drinking it from a bowl. The blessing at all meals was in the form of a song such as "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" or "God Is So Good."

Mission Meeting began at 8 a.m. for the missionaries and served a three-fold purpose: Inspirational, Administrative, and "Family get-together" for people who share similar problems and ambitions concerning the furtherance of God's work. Attendance is not required, but all are motivated to be present by a common goal. So great was the impact of one of the inspirational sessions that a couple of fathers who came to pick up their small children said, "This morning has been almost like a real, old-time revival meeting."

Vacation Bible School also began at 8. The school was not as structured as

those we have here because the hours were longer — usually until 6 in the evening, with time out for lunch and rest until 2:30 p.m.

Our assignment was to teach and play and counsel and to let these young people and children know that we loved them for themselves because Jesus loves them. One little girl said, "My brother doesn't believe in Jesus," but before we left I am firmly convinced that he did. Another child was led to show her love for others and her belief in the teachings of the Bible by putting her feelings aside that another child might know the meaning of love — God's way.

And that's the way it was — a feeling of love all around. We from Mississippi, who were for the most part strangers to each other as we started for France, learned to love each other. Then we learned to love the MKs and their parents, and they returned that love.

The feel of tiny arms around your neck and little high-pitched voices pleading, "Teacher, please come back next year; the shy smile of a youngster greeting you in the hall, "I sure had a good time this year. I wish you could be my teacher every year;" the knowing look of a teenager eager for life ahead, yet grasping for something solid to hold on to, spilling out, "Thank you for being my friend. You've really listened": THESE ARE SOME OF THE REWARDS OF BEING A VOLUNTEER IN MISSIONS.

Lola Autry lives at Whipperwill Valley, Hickory Flat, Miss.

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee**



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## Wing, staff house dedicated

A new wing for the main building of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly and a new staff house to accommodate the summer workers were dedicated during services last Friday evening and Saturday morning. The two new structures received rave notices from the visitors who were in attendance for the occasion.

And well they should have. Both facilities are first class. The staff house is a very comfortable dormitory for those who will spend their summers working there. There are 20 large rooms adequately furnished with three beds in each. There are two wings for boys and two wings for girls. The house will accommodate 60 workers plus the house parents. A nice-sized swimming pool is located in the yard between two of the wings. The completed facility cost about \$1.1 million, according to assembly manager Frank Simmons. The house is built on concrete piers to protect it from any possible future hurricanes such as destroyed the old Gulfshore in 1969.

The staff house is available for rent for staff retreats or other such meetings during the off season. A small kitchen is available for use.

The new wing on the main building will accommodate 176 to bring the total capacity to 528. In addition to rooms for those attending conferences there are classrooms and the Baptist Book Store on the ground level. The possibility of future hurricanes was involved in the planning for this wing as well as the staff house, and the top two floors are built on concrete piers. The classrooms and bookstore fill in the spaces between the piers on the ground floor.

The cost of the new wing was set at

\$4.2 million.

The dedicatory address was delivered on Saturday morning by Grady Cothen, the retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board who now lives in Pass Christian, the location of Gulfshore. Though he was pressed for time, in a shortened version of his message he delivered a ringing salute to the ministry that is possible in retreat settings and a challenge to those who will be leaders in the new facility. It was fitting that this Mississippi native should deliver the concluding dedicatory address. He has held some of the most important posts in Southern Baptist life, and his work with the Sunday School Board included the administration of two retreat facilities such as Gulfshore is at Ridgecrest and Glorieta.

A Litany of Dedication for Gulfshore was written by Marjorie Kelly, wife of Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The congregation joined in the responsive reading of the litany led by Jim Futral, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Music played an enormous part in a very significant and satisfying program. On Friday night a combined choir from nine Gulf Coast churches sang to the accompaniment of the orchestra from First Church, Pascagoula. Graham Smith, church music director for Mississippi, directed. This ensemble and orchestra presented the call to worship and a mini concert. Tim Pierce of Pelahatchie Church played "The Lord's Prayer" on his saxophone as the benediction. On Friday night also Gary Anglin of First Church, Pascagoula, presented special music;

and Tim Nicholas, associate editor of the Baptist Record, presented a drama that he wrote and produced. It dealt with the purchase, destruction, restoration, and ministry of Gulfshore and featured Rocky Henriques, pastor of Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale.

The prelude opening the Saturday morning session was a piano and organ duet by Irene Martin and Dot Pray, "All Hail the Power." Both of these ladies have been involved with Gulfshore since its restoration and form as good a piano and organ team as is to be found anywhere. They were the accompanists for the dedication services.

Then on Saturday morning the Singing Chuchmen, always a favorite, presented nine numbers that were placed at three locations on the programs.

Other music was the inaugural ringing of the Dan C. Hall memorial handbells and a special number by Smith, singing "Holy Ground."

There were other speeches. James N. Griffith, executive director for Georgia Baptists, spoke on Friday night. On Saturday morning there were Frank Gunn, First Church, Biloxi pastor, who was the Gulfshore long-range chairman, and Robert Hamblin, Tupelo, who was convention president when the original unit was dedicated in 1978. Hamblin recently retired as evangelism director for the Home Mission Board. Frank Simmons also spoke.

Perhaps the message that created the most interest was the one delivered by James L. Sullivan. Sullivan is also a native Mississippian and also a retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board. He had spoken on the occasions of the dedica-



tion of the original Gulfshore and the restored Gulfshore. This was his third such appearance. His was a walk back into history as he revealed that his first secretary at the Sunday School Board had also served as secretary to J. M. Frost, the first administrative head of the board. He pointed out that we are a young denomination and that eventually the troubles that we face will be over.

He received a standing ovation from about 500 who had been hanging onto

his every word.

Gulfshore, located on the sandy shore of Bay St. Louis, is a beautiful and comfortable facility. There is nothing like it throughout the Southern Baptist area, which is the nation.

As Cothen so aptly pointed out in his message, there is a need for retreat settings for inspiration and restoration of the spirit. There is no finer place on earth for that ministry than Gulfshore.

## ACTS and the gospel

The fact that May 21 is Radio and Television Commission Sunday across the Southern Baptist Convention points up the fact that the commission has been in the news quite a bit over the past months and even years.

From an agency spending very little money and getting a great deal of "air" time free of charge, the commission is now spending millions annually and effectively utilizing the latest in communications intelligence and equipment.

Many have pointed out that while the commission was getting a great deal of free time previously, it was time when few had radio or television sets turned on.

So the thought is that the commission is communicating the gospel much more effectively now.

The operations of today could come only from dreams of a great magnitude; and from among Southern Baptists, one of the few with such large-scale dreaming was Jimmy Allen, the president of the Radio and Television Commission. He forged a system whereby, through the auspices of cable television, countless millions of homes are capable of

receiving top-quality television programs presenting the gospel. There are at least four hours of direct preaching every week along with the featuring twice each week of "Great Churches of America." Then there are two hours of spiritual counseling along with the daily "Sunshine Factory" for children and "Country Crossroads" featuring Mississippi Baptist's Jerry Clower.

The dreams were expensive, and expected financial help didn't come. A group of men realized the danger that the commission faced and the tremendous potential that it contained; and they tried to gather enough money to buy the commission's marvelous television network, ACTS; but they were unable to do so. In the hope that such a sale would be consummated, however, the Radio and Television Commission had to mark time for awhile and suffered even more financially. The hope for a sale still exists, and Allen has resigned to join one of the groups that might bring about such a sale. In the meantime, the commission is in the capable hands of Richard T. McCartney, the executive vice president. The Radio and Televi-

sion Commission and ACTS Network are moving on.

In addition to the televised programming, the commission produces radio programs that are heard more than 6,000 times every week. Among the listeners are those tuned to the Armed Forces Radio Service overseas.

What a marvelous ministry! Modern technology makes all of this possible, and we need to be using it effectively. We are doing so through the Radio and Television Commission.

Jimmy Allen is a dreamer who could put it all together. Dick McCartney is a polished, practical communicator who can make it work. He is very well versed in radio and television work, having spent his life in such communications efforts along with public relations work and as the editor of the Oklahoma state paper.

We have it. We need to make use of it. To do so, we must support it. Radio and Television Commission Sunday May 21 is the time to bring all of this to our attention and call for our response.

This is the gospel at work in the broadest way possible.

## Alcohol-warning labels criticized by supporters

By Louis Moore

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms has issued a temporary rule on warning labels for alcoholic beverages as required by legislation enacted by Congress in 1988.

But the temporary rule has drawn criticism from groups such as the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, which supported the new law.

The complaint arises from the way the bureau would allow alcoholic beverage companies to place the labels on the bottles.

Larry Braidfoot, the commission's general counsel, said the bureau's ruling would allow the companies to place the warning labels on the back or side of the bottles and to print those labels in hard-to-read print.

That ruling is inconsistent with the intention of the law, he added. The warning label required by law would convey the information that beverage

alcohol may cause birth defects and affect one's ability to drive an automobile. The legislation was supported by a coalition of more than 100 consumer, health, parent and religious organizations.

Letters of concern can be addressed to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20226, Braidfoot said.

Louis Moore writes for the CLC.

**KEEP  
MISSISSIPPI  
CLEAN**

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## State Baptists dedicate new wing at Gulfshore

By Tim Nicholas

Mississippi Baptists had a camp meeting last weekend, dedicating a new wing and staff house for their state assembly at Pass Christian.

Participants were told by retired Sunday School Board president Grady Cothen that at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, "some are going to have their minds opened to the world, to missions . . . to the call of God, and Christ as Savior."

Cothen was one of a number of speakers at the dedication weekend which included a dramatic reenactment of the auction during which Baptists bought Gulfshore in 1958.

Cothen spoke of a neighbor's big boat that never leaves the dock, relating it to the human spirit. "... loose it and let it go places . . . be free and roam God's marvelous world. God wants you to cast off from the dock of the world and (tell others) God loves you."

James Sullivan, also a retired president of the Sunday School Board and a reputation as an historian, discussed Southern Baptists in general. He explained why Southern Baptists are a great denomination. "They are creative," he said. "They took over the Sunday School movement and made it fit Southern Baptist purposes and

design."

He said they teach the "greatest text in the world to the greatest folks in the world," initiating camp meetings to do it. Camp meetings, he said, were the beginnings of assemblies — such as Gulfshore.

And Southern Baptists are great, he said, "because of the way we do things. The priesthood of the believer is the beginning point. Members are responsible to God. The church is responsible only to God. The association is responsible only to God. So for state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention." He said the agencies of the SBC are operated by the convention for the denomination — and that is everybody.

Reminiscing, Sullivan said that while growing up at Tylertown, his church sent 40 percent of its budget to the state convention rather than having a lot of fundraisers coming around. "The churches demanded the Cooperative Program to keep the fundraisers from interrupting their programs," he said.

Sullivan said that where Southern Baptists are today was brought on by youthfulness, being a young denomination, by the world in which we live, by the fast growth of the SBC

("Young people have never been told what Baptists believe, where we came from, where we are going . . . we need the BYPU again.") and the vulnerability of democracy. "Where a denomination is built on faith, suspicion can be very costly," he said.

James Griffith, executive director for Georgia Baptists, told the crowd to guard the light of enthusiasm, guard the light of balance in our day, and to guard the light of Christian service. "It will take the combined light of us all to drive out the darkness of our age," he said.

Robert Hamblin, an evangelist from Tupelo, said that Gulfshore has been a place of commitment from its very beginning. "God gave us this place — to use it to his glory." He said his prayer is that Gulfshore "will ever be a place for evangelizing the lost."

The May 12-13 weekend program included tours of the new facilities, music by a combined Coast choir and by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen, and a barbecue lunch for guests. Gulfshore now has a capacity for more than 500 persons.

Frank Simmons, manager of Gulfshore, said that 128,500 people had participated in Gulfshore programs since 1978.

"Open to the Possibilities," a drama written and produced by Tim Nicholas, reenacts the auction scene when Gulfshore property was bought from the U.S. government in 1958.

James Sullivan

Grady Cothen

## Soviets give written okay to Baptist seminary plans

By Art Toalston

MOSCOW (BP) — Soviet authorities have given Baptists written permission to open a seminary.

"We now (face) a period of bargaining with the government," said Alexei Bichkov, general secretary of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, in a telephone interview from Moscow about the new seminary.

Baptists in the Soviet republics of Latvia and Estonia have received permission from authorities to reopen seminaries that were ordered closed in 1957, Bichkov said. Baptists also operated Bible schools in Leningrad for five years and in Moscow for two years until they were closed by the government in 1929.

The first matter to be resolved is the location of the new seminary, Bichkov said. Several possible sites have been discussed with state officials, but "some places are over two hours by car (from Moscow). We (will) seek a more reasonable distance."

Bichkov said the Baptist council envisions opening a full-time, four-year course of study for 20 theological students in "I hope not more than three years," if negotiations with the government proceed smoothly. A couple of years later, he said, the enrollment will be expanded to 40.

A theological seminary is important

to Baptist ministers, Bichkov said, because it will better equip them for addressing the ways of thinking of today's Soviet citizens. "(Many adults) graduated from the technical colleges (and) universities," the Baptist leader said. "The level of education of the last two generations is very high."

The written permission from the Soviet Office of Religious Affairs was dated Feb. 20, Bichkov said. The Baptist council has been lobbying for such permission more than 10 years.

Bichkov said the new seminary will not eliminate the need for a Bible correspondence course begun by the Baptist council in the late 1960s. More than 600 church leaders have completed the three-year theology program or two-year music curriculum. The council now is working to add a fourth year of ministerial training. Enrollment stands at about 100 per year.

Five acres just outside a freeway circling Moscow is the Baptist council's preferred site for the new seminary, Bichkov said. It is less than 20 miles from the center of the city.

Negotiations over the site will not place the Baptist council and Soviet government at an impasse, Bichkov predicted. "We (will) try from our side to find as much as possible a reasonable proposal," he said.

A proposal for a theological training center in Kiev is being prepared, he added. The second school would serve Baptists primarily in the Ukraine, where more than half of the Baptist council's 5,000 churches are located.

Keith Parker, director of Southern Baptist work in Europe, said the government's written permission constitutes "a notable historical decision" that will allow Baptists not just enhanced ministerial training, but also new opportunities in missions education. The Soviet Union encompasses one-sixth of the world's land mass and more than 100 language groups. Baptists currently are found in about 30 language groups.

"This phenomenal potential," Parker said, "needs to be taken quite seriously" by Southern Baptists and other Baptist bodies worldwide committed to helping Baptists in the Soviet Union expand their outreach.

The Soviet Union's 548,000 Baptists comprise the fourth-largest constituency of the Baptist World Alliance, after the United States, India and Brazil.

Funding for the new seminary will come from a variety of Baptist sources, Bichkov said. But, he noted: "We hope that our main contributors (Continued on page 4)

## Nominations for boards asked by state committee

Persons interested in making a nomination to Mississippi Baptist Convention boards, commissions, and agencies are invited to do so by writing to the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, Dean Register, First Baptist Church, P. O. Drawer 70, Gulfport, MS 39502, or to the executive director's office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Members of the Committee on Nominations choose nominees for the Convention Board, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Christian Action Commission, Baptist Children's Village, Board of Ministerial Education, Baptist Foundation, Blue Mountain College,

Mississippi College, William Carey College, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Baptist Memorial Health Care System, and any other group referred to it by the convention.

These nominees are then elected by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November.

A nomination form is available from the executive director's office which asks for general information on the capabilities and eligibility for the person nominated.

Members of the Committee on Nominations in addition to Register, the chairman, are: Larry Taylor, Sue Tatum, Charles Bagwell, and William P. Smith III.

## Church services suspended as Panama tensions soar

PANAMA CITY, Panama (BP) — "There's tremendous tension" in the Panama City, Panama area, Southern Baptist missionary Jackie Cooper reported the day after bloody confrontations May 10 between supporters and opponents of embattled ruler Gen. Manuel Noriega.

"People are not sure what's going to happen," said Cooper, who lives about 20 miles from Panama City.

The tension, along with an 8 p.m. curfew spread by word of mouth but never officially announced, prompted

(Continued on page 4)



# Trustees give financial control to consultant

By Tim Nicholas

Trustees of William Carey College on May 12 took financial control of the college from President J. Ralph Noonkester, and gave it to James W. Edwards, an independent consultant who has been working for the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission.

Edwards, former chief business officer of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., has been aiding the Education Commission in its investigation of allegations of fiscal mismanagement at Carey. The full report of that study is due shortly.

The hiring of a financial chief by the trustees was done unanimously by the 15-member board on May 8 following a preliminary report by the Education Commission which apparently included such a recommendation. Edwards was named in a press release by Joe Dale, a Prentiss layman and trustee chairman following the May 12 trustee meeting in which Edwards was hired.

Carey public relations director Alice McCardle said she understood Edwards' employment was immediate and for as long as needed.

The full text of the release follows. Statement of Joseph Dale, chairman, William Carey College trustees, May 12, 1989:

"The board of trustees of William Carey College is fully and acutely aware of the serious financial condition of the college which has developed over a period of years, and is unanimously and totally committed to the solution of this problem. Towards that end, the board has received expert professional help in analyzing the problems and possible solutions. We have already recently formulated plans for an immediate program for aggressive recruitment of new traditional students and the retention of existing ones together with a program aimed at broadening the base of financial support.

"Today the board has unanimously taken the following action:

— "Employment of Dr. James W. Edwards as temporary administrator to oversee and direct all financial operations of the college, including negotiations with lenders and creditors. Dr. Edwards has already

familiarized himself with the financial affairs of the college as a member of the evaluation team selected by the Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. His prior financial experience with church affiliated colleges and universities such as Texas Christian University, Southern Methodist University, and more recently, Union University, makes him eminently qualified to serve in this capacity. His services will allow the president and other administrative officers of the college to devote more time toward student recruitment and solicitation of financial support.

— "Adoption of a budget for the 1989-90 school year which provides for a sizable reduction in operating expenses.

— "Adoption of a five year plan for the college which allows continuing and gradual expansion of the services of the college while at the same time making provision for an orderly reduction of the existing debt."

Business manager Joe Riley said the budget passed was \$6.3 million.

## Noonkester cites "real issue"

By Tim Nicholas

William Carey College President J. Ralph Noonkester cited himself as the real issue in a speech last week which outlined his feelings on the causes of many of the troubles at the Hattiesburg-based college.

Speaking May 11 to the Hattiesburg Kiwanis and to the press, Noonkester commented on an attempt last fall to have him retired on his 65th birthday next month. He said that "the primary reason for my firing was my decision to demote two administrators on grounds of incompetence."

Trustees, on Noonkester's recommendation, last year demoted vice presidents W. J. Ward and Milton Wheeler and dean of women Bekke Ray. At that time Noonkester only said it was a part of a reorganization plan.

Contacted by the Baptist Record, Wheeler had no comment for the record. Ward said, "I think Noonkester's record speaks for itself. If there's anybody incompetent, it's him."

In the speech, Noonkester said, "Both of them played up to certain

members of my Board of Trustees, who staged an unsuccessful attempt to have the two reinstated exactly one year ago at last year's May meeting of the Board. You could say that my firing was their attempt to get revenge on me."

Concerning himself as the real issue, Noonkester said "As president of a church-related college operating in the shadow of a major university in the deep South, I have had to be aggressive and innovative and some people just don't like that. Many of them just want one Baptist school in Mississippi. Some of my own colleagues and trustees did not want us to go to the Coast or New Orleans or to integrate or to accept denominational diversity among faculty and students. Some simply want me to pretend to be pious."

Noonkester called the present financial crisis "serious, but solvable." He said his hands had been "tied in fundraising" because of "the firing and the controversy following it."

Noonkester also responded to a secular press report coming out of a

May 8 preliminary report to Carey trustees from the Education Commission. The secular press cited a \$1 million deficit at the college, a figure reported by the Baptist Record last year.

Noonkester said all unpaid student accounts, including those of current students, total about \$346,000. And the plant fund owes the general fund a balance of \$800,000. "When these two items are satisfactorily dealt with the cash flow of the college in its general fund operations will be improved amazingly," he said.

He said of reports from three auditors, one of which was more than \$1 million, "which one am I to believe? ... I reject the figures of the chicken-littles who want the sky to fall." Noonkester said a clear picture would not be available until July 1 when the new audit year begins. "The axe doesn't fall until June 30," he said.

Said Noonkester of the need for immediate infusion of funds, "Hattiesburg and the Gulf Coast will support Carey generously or they won't have a private college."

## Committee seeks head start on resolution

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — To assist the Southern Baptist Resolutions Committee for the convention's 1989 annual meeting in getting a head start on its work, the chairman has appealed to messengers to send him advance copies of resolutions they plan to submit June 13 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Mark Coppenger, executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, asked that resolutions, preferably typed, be sent by May 24 to his attention at P.O. Box 24189, Indianapolis, Ind. 46224.

Coppenger was named in late April by SBC President Jerry Vines to chair the 10-member Resolutions Committee.

The committee plans to meet in Nashville Friday, May 26, to get acquainted, get organized, and review

advance resolutions submitted to the committee, Coppenger said. The group also will meet Saturday, June 10, in Las Vegas, to continue its work.

Messengers who send advance copies of resolutions must also submit them on the first day of the convention, he said.

According to SBC Bylaw 21, the committee has the "duty ... to prepare and submit to the convention resolutions which the committee deems appropriate for adoption and to report on all matters submitted to it by the convention, with or without recommendation or amendments."

Bylaws specify that three members of the Resolutions Committee also be members of the SBC Executive Committee. They are Jerry Brown, a truckstop operator and member of

Emmanuel Church, Edmond, Okla.; Joy Dorsett, a homemaker and member of Central Park Church, Birmingham; and Walt Tomme, pastor of Tyson Community Church, McLean, Va., but affiliated with the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

Vines also named the chairman of the 1988 Resolutions Committee, Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church, Nashville, to serve on the 1989 committee.

Other members are David Allen, pastor of Audelia Road Church, Dallas; Kenneth Hemphill, pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va.; David McAlpin, pastor of First Church, Pine Castle in Orlando; James Merritt, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga.; and Linda Shrewsbury, a member of Memorial Church, Tulsa.

## Southern Baptist Forum

June 12, 1989

Cashman Field Complex Theater, Las Vegas, Nevada

Monday Morning

Theme: "Priesthood of the Believer"

8:45 Prelude

9:00 Special Music: Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Vocal Ensemble, Phillip Landgrave, director Opening of the Sixth Annual Session Welcome and Invocation

Scripture Reading

Speaker: Molly Marshall-Green, associate professor of theology, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Special Music: Bob Bailey, singer/songwriter, Nashville Dramatization of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, by Al Staggs, pastor, First Baptist Church, Portales, N.M.

Business Session and Offering

Church-of-the-Year Award

Congregational Singing

11:00 Speaker: Brian Harbour, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark.

11:30 Benediction

Monday Afternoon

Theme: "Preaching of the Gospel"

1:30 Prelude

1:45 Congregational Singing

Invocation

Scripture Reading

Speaker: Fred Craddock, professor of New Testament and preaching, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta

Special Music: Bob Bailey

Denominational Statesperson Award

Speaker: Clyde Fant, chaplain, Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.

Announcements and Offering

Mini-concert: Cynthia Clawson, entertainer, Louisville

Speaker: Robert Schuller, pastor, Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, Calif.

Benediction

## Soviets give written OK to Baptist seminary plans

(Continued from page 3)

will be from our own churches. Our people have been waiting for so long and have prayed so much for this announcement. They are very generous people and we believe (they) will give very much money for (the) seminary."

When the new seminary opens and seminaries in Latvia and Estonia reopen, they will join five other theological institutions operated by Baptists in Eastern Europe — in Poland, Hungary, East Germany,

Romania, and Yugoslavia.

Another avenue of theological education for ministers and lay leaders from Eastern Europe has been the Summer Institute of Theological Education at Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. The institute, now in its 11th year, is scheduled to have its largest Eastern European enrollment this summer, with more than 40 participants, including 14 from the Soviet Union.

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

## Panama churches cancel services

(Continued from page 3)

numerous Baptist churches to cancel Wednesday evening services May 10. "A lot of people just didn't want to be out at night," Cooper said.

Seventeen Southern Baptist missionaries are in the country, said Cooper, who is their chairman. They are not in any danger, he said, but they are not making any trips from their homes.

Tensions in Panama, which have swirled around May 7's contested election, have prompted the missionaries to put a partnership with the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia on hold. The four-year partnership began in January. A number of Georgia Baptists were scheduled to work with Panamanian churches during May.

Also, the arrival of a two-year volunteer media specialist, Keith Morris of Abilene, Texas, has been delayed until after May.

Violence erupted May 10 when T-shirted members of Noriega's "Dignity Battalion" clashed with protesters led by opposition presidential can-

(Continued on page 7)

## Conference to develop pastoral skills

May 23 is the date for a conference designed to develop pastoral leadership skills for church growth.

The conference will take place in the Baptist Building in Jackson 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Leader for the meeting will be Charles Belt, consultant in pastoral leadership and administration at the Baptist Sunday School Board. He

is a former pastor of Forest Church, Forest, and Hollandale Church, Hollandale.

Registration cost is \$10 to cover cost of a book, materials, and lunch. To register, send a check for \$10, payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, to Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Phone 968-3800.



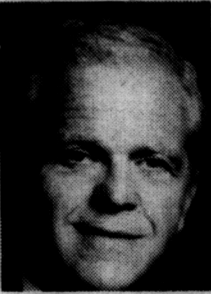
Belt



Thursday, May 18, 1989

# Landrum to speak at MC graduation

CLINTON — G. Barry Landrum III, a native Mississippian now serving as associate pastor of Second Church,



Landrum

Houston, Tex., will be the featured speaker at the Mississippi College commencement program Saturday, May 20, closing out the 163rd academic session at the institution.

The commencement ceremonies will begin at 2 p.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum on campus with degrees going to 515 individuals.

Lewis Nobles, president of the college, will confer the degrees. Assisting him will be the deans or vice-presidents of the various schools and the College of Arts and Sciences. Of the 515 degree recipients, 350 will receive undergraduate degrees, 91 graduate degrees, eight the education specialist degree, and 66 the doctor of jurisprudence degree from the School of Law.

Delivering the invocation at the commencement ceremonies will be R. Thomas Hudson, editor, Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, while Billy R. Williams, pastor, First Church,

Gautier, will pronounce the benediction. Both men have sons in the graduating class.

A native of Laurel, Landrum earned the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College in 1961 and the master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary in 1965. In 1977 he was awarded the doctor of ministries degree from New Orleans Seminary and that same year Mississippi College presented him the honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Before joining the staff at Second Church, Landrum served as pastor at the First Church of Pasadena, Tex. He previously had served at First Church, Bossier City, La., and First Baptist Church of Greenville, Miss.

The Landrum family has long been associated with Mississippi College. In addition to his degrees from the college, his wife, the former Charlotte Reeves, graduated in 1963. Their oldest daughter, Laura, graduated in 1986, and their second daughter, Gina, is a member of this year's graduating class. Their son, Bud, is a sophomore at Baylor University.

Landrum's father-in-law and mother-in-law, Rev. and Mrs. J. Lester Reeves, have seen all three of their children graduate from Mississippi College and their two sons-in-laws are also Mississippi College graduates.

## Woodland Hills, Jackson, calls minister to deaf

James W. Booth of Lafayette, La., will become minister to the deaf at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, on June 1. Booth goes to Woodland Hills from Acadiana Baptist Church of the Deaf in Lafayette, where he has served since 1980.



Booth

Booth, a native of Prentiss, Miss., is a graduate of Mississippi College, with a master's degree from the University

of Southern Mississippi, and a master of religious education from New Orleans Seminary.

In addition to his part-time ministry at Woodland Hills, Booth will serve as part-time missionary to the deaf for Mississippi, under appointment by the Home Mission Board and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. His work in the state will be a part of the language missions work of the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Booth is married to Edith King Booth, and they have two daughters.

## Italian Baptists protest bid for Belgian school

ROME, Italy (BP) — Italian Baptist leaders have urged Paige Patterson to stop negotiating for the purchase of a Bible school in Belgium.

Patterson, in response, underscored "the right and privilege of any Baptist body" to voice its opinion, but he reiterated reasons why he is continuing to explore the possibility of Criswell College in Dallas buying the financially troubled Belgian Center for Biblical Education near Brussels.

Patterson is president of Criswell College and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The transaction would involve Criswell College, not the Foreign Mission Board.

The executive committee of the Baptist Evangelical Union of Italy urged "that the enormous resources which he (Patterson) is about to pour into (the Belgian school) ... be donated instead to the one institution which European Baptists do recognize, appreciate, love and sustain, and that is the Baptist

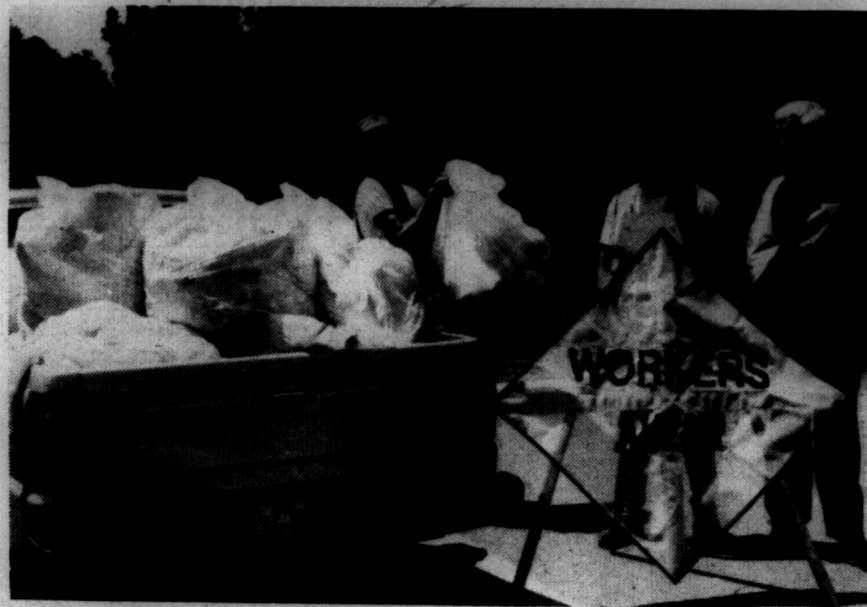
(Theological) Seminary in Ruschlikon."

The Ruschlikon seminary, located near Zurich, Switzerland, has been a cooperative venture between European Baptists and Southern Baptists since its founding in 1949.

The Italian union's executive committee took its stance during its April 6-9 meeting in Rocca di Papa, but did not release it from Rome until early May, said Paolo Spano, president of the union, in a May 8 telephone interview. He has led the union since 1984 and previously was director of its theological commission.

The nine-member committee further appealed "to all the Baptist unions of Europe to unite themselves quickly in a common action in order to persuade Dr. Patterson to withdraw from his initiative."

The committee also registered a protest that both Italian Baptists and other European Baptist unions "have never been consulted at all" by Patterson.



## "Keep Mississippi Beautiful"

Steve Martin of Harpersville Church in Scott County throws the last bag of garbage on the back of a pickup after a group of members of the church had covered about a mile of the 2.6 miles of adopted highway. The load in the pickup is the garbage picked up along the mile of Highway 35 just north of the church. The church adopted the 2.6 miles as its part of the state's adopt-a-highway program that is an effort to keep trash off the roadways of the state. Others in the picture are John Montgomery, center, and Dan Thompson, pastor.

## Excellence, joy — theme for religious educators

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — "Bold Excellence — Joy in Service" will be the theme for the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association annual meeting here June 11-12.

The 34th SBREA conference, to be held at the Aladdin Hotel, is among more than a dozen special-interest sessions scheduled in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, also here, June 13-15.

"What we envision is to emphasize excellence," said SBREA President Jerry M. Stubblefield, professor of religious education at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. "We're trying to get this group to push a little harder in terms of skill development — enhance their skills in teaching — and in terms of personal and professional growth."

Two keynote speakers will highlight the excellence theme, he said.

"Toward Excellence in Teaching" will be the topic presented by Bradley Courtenay, department head and associate professor of adult education at the University of Georgia in Athens. Bill Taylor, associate pastor/minister of education at Prestonwood Church, Dallas, will discuss "Excellence: Personal and Professional Growth."

"Joy in Service" focuses on how you can deal with problems and issues" in ministry, Stubblefield noted. Larry McSwain, dean of the School of Theology and professor of church and community at Southern Seminary, will speak on "Coping Effectively in Ministry." He will be followed by four ministers who will describe experiences of coping with forced termination, broken marriage, adjusting to different pastors, and dealing with

a new marriage while involved in ministry.

Another keynote address will set the stage for excellence in ministry in the 1990s, Stubblefield said. Arnold Brown, chairman of the Weiner, Edrich, Brown Inc., management consulting firm in New York, will address "Looking at the Decade Ahead." Brown's firm works with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in examining issues with which it must deal.

Of the four plenary speakers, two — McSwain and Taylor — work for Southern Baptists, and a third — Courtenay — is a Southern Baptist, Stubblefield said.

The conference will include meetings of professional-interest groups, business sessions, fellowship times, a luncheon and presentation of the 1989 distinguished leader award.

The SBREA also will sponsor two professional-growth seminars prior to the Las Vegas meeting, Stubblefield said.

The seminars will be "Identifying Adult Learning Styles — Determining Leadership/Teaching Styles," led by Mancil Ezell, director of the Sunday School Board's church media library department, and "Identifying Issues and Managing Change," led by Brown.

The seminars will be held at the Aladdin Hotel Saturday, June 10, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Offered on a cost-recovery basis to SBREA members, the seminars will cost \$30 for members and \$50 for non-members.

For more information on the seminars, contact SBREA Executive Director Merle T. Basden at P.O. Box 330369, Fort Worth, Texas 76163 or (817) 292-7371.

## Midwestern trustees approve budget

KANSAS CITY, MO. (BP) — Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved a reduced 1989-90 budget and elected two faculty members during their annual board meeting here April 10-11.

Acting upon recommendation of the board's finance committee, trustees approved an operating budget of \$4.2 million for the upcoming fiscal year.

That amount represents a 2.5 percent decrease from the current \$4.3 million budget.

Trustees elected J. Truett Gannon, pastor of Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Ga., to his third term as board chairman. Other officers include Richard Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church of Festus/Crystal City, Mo., first vice chairman; Kerry G. Powell, pastor of First Baptist Church, McGehee, Ark., second vice chairman; and Lowell E. Socolofsky, a layman from Bellevue, Neb., secretary-treasurer.

## SBC missions day camp gears up

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Plans are "full steam ahead" for the activities at SBC Missions Day Camp here June 13-15, organizers said.

Missions Day Camp, sponsored by the children and youth division of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, is for boys and girls who have completed grades 1-6 whose parents attend the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Missions Day Camp provides a missions education program for children of messengers during all daytime sessions of the convention: Tuesday, June 13, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, June 14, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and Thursday, June 15, 8:30 a.m.-3:20 p.m.

Activities planned include Bible study, crafts, and games, organizers said. Two missionaries will share experiences about their work.

The cost is \$7 per day per child, or \$20.00 for three days, and includes lunch Tuesday and Thursday and refreshments all days.

Registration will be conducted at the Missions Day Camp Booth near the messenger registration area in the Las Vegas Convention Center Monday, June 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and during daytime sessions Tuesday and Wednesday. No limit has been placed on the number of qualified children that can attend. Parents will need to be able to provide a brief medical history of the children as well as local contact information in the event of an emergency.

Day Camp will be at First Baptist Church of Las Vegas, 300 South Ninth Street. Transportation will be provided to and from the convention center.

Additional information will be available at the Missions Day Camp Booth.

The day campers should dress comfortably, planners said. All activities will be inside because of the intense heat expected during June in Las Vegas.

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# Church starts three missions, doubles attendance — one weekend

By Mark Wingfield

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. (BP) — Saddleback Valley Community Church doubled its attendance Easter weekend by asking members not to come to Sunday services.

The church also started three new congregations at the same time. Pastor Rick Warren mailed letters to all church members asking them to attend a special Saturday night worship service Easter weekend. This would make room for non-Christians and Easter-only Christians to attend the two Sunday services, he said.

The nine-year-old church here has become known for Warren's innovative church-growth techniques. He started the church with seven people and has grown it to an average attendance of 3,800. Easter weekend attendance totaled 7,490.

Saddleback Valley was the first church in the Southern Baptist Convention known to offer a regular Saturday night service, which started about one year ago. However, the church had not promoted the Saturday night service because it was held in a different location from Sunday services.

The church has no permanent building but rents Trabucko Hills High School every Sunday. Beginning Easter weekend, it was able to use that facility on Saturdays as well.

Warren said he wasn't sure how many people would show up Saturday night for Easter services, especially in a heavy rainstorm. But the people poured in as fast as the rain.

A total of 3,020 people attended the Saturday night service, parking a half-mile away in every direction.

Hundreds sat in an overflow room with television monitors, 600 stood through the entire service, and the fire marshal turned away another 1,000, Warren said.

And then another 4,470 people came to the two traditional Sunday services, he said.

He said Saddleback could have added an early morning service on Sunday, but that would have appealed only to Christians, he said.

"Most churches say, 'We'd like you to come to know the Lord, but you have to do it on Sunday morning,'" he said. "That way you only have one hook. We had three hooks."

While many pastors dread the once-

a-year crowd at Easter, Warren said he values the opportunity to address non-Christians: "They're the very people we want. If they only come once a year, I sure want them in my church."

To attract these people, Saddleback mailed 85,000 fliers advertising the Easter services.

The key to bringing the Easter-only crowd back is to start a new, practical sermon series on Easter Sunday, Warren said.

Although not everyone who came for Easter services will return to Saddleback, a certain percentage will, he said, explaining this as the "residue factor" — that every time a church increases attendance for a special event, subsequent attendance will fall back but will still be greater than before the event.

Easter also is the best day of the year to start a new congregation, Warren said. He started Saddleback on Easter Sunday in 1980 and has used the same principles to start mission congregations in subsequent years.

The three new congregations Saddleback started this Easter are Searidge Community Church in Laguna Hills, Calif., with an attendance of 282; Olive Branch Community Church in Norco, Calif., with 160 attending the first service; and Scottsdale Community Church in Scottsdale, Ariz., with 76 people braving a flash flood to attend.

With these three missions, Saddleback has started 13 new congregations during its nine-year history.

Mark Wingfield writes for the BP Atlanta bureau.

## Orthodox leader resettled in U.S.

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. (EP) — A Soviet church leader who was sentenced to seven years in a labor camp for writing a history of the Russian Orthodox Church from the time of the 1917 Russian Revolution is being resettled in the U.S. as a result of negotiations between the Soviet government and representatives of the U.S. Lutheran Church.

Vladimir Rusak and his wife Galina arrived in the U.S. April 14 and were greeted in New York by representatives of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

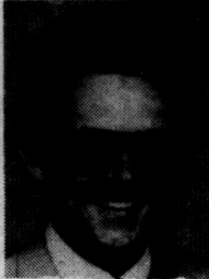
## Devotional

# Go after your goal

By Bob Rogers

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14, NIV).

In the next few days, thousands of Mississippians will be graduating from high school and college. As June arrives, thousands of brides are planning their weddings. Many people will move in the summertime. This is a time of the year when great changes occur in people's lives. Perhaps you are among this group. Let me ask you, where are you going from here? What does your future hold?



Rogers

Paul gives excellent advice in Philippians 3:13-14. The first step in beginning your future is to forget your past. Stop wishing for the "good ole days." They are gone, and nothing can bring them back. Or perhaps your past haunts you and you are afraid you can never shake loose from it. If Moses, David, and Paul could overcome their past guilt in participating in murder, then God can help you overcome your past, too!

The second step is to get a vision of the future. Paul says, "straining toward what is ahead." Stop a minute and close your eyes. Dream a little. Think: what would you like to see happen in your life? All things are possible with God, so open the windows of your mind and dream.

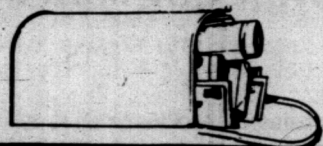
The third step is to set some goals. Paul says, "I press on toward the goal." You have dreamed, now set down your goals. Write down something specific. Do you want to further your education? Write down the name of the degree, the school you wish to attend, and when you want to begin and finish. Does your heart ache to see people hunting through garbage for food? Write down when your church or association could begin a food closet ministry. Your dreams will not be realized if you do not set a specific goal.

The fourth step is to go after your goal. Paul said he "pressed" for his goal in Christ. In Charles Dickens' novel, *Great Expectations*, Pip made himself feel better about his debts by listing them all on paper, but Pip took no action to pay his debts. Once you set your goal, it is time to act.

Olympic runner Eric Liddle was remembered in the movie, *Chariots of Fire*. One particularly moving scene shows an opponent tripping him. As he falls on the track and the other runners dart ahead, the coach says to himself, "Get up, Eric!" In slow motion, the audience watches him roll on the track, and they begin to plead along with the coach, "Get up, Eric!" Then Eric gets up, and looks straight at the finish line. He begins to close in on the other runners, looking at nothing but the finish line. At the tape, he passes them all and wins the race.

What does your future hold? Christ is calling, "Get up! Get up! Press for the goal!" He has something special for every one of us to do. His call is the highest call of all. How will you answer him?

Bob Rogers is pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.



## Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

### Effective teacher

Editor:

Albert Einstein said, "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." Curtis Hall, who died on April 24, possessed this art.

The loss of super teacher Curtis Hall to his family, the Sunday School class that he taught, his church, and the Murrah High School social studies classes (where he taught for 28 years) is devastating. The untimely death of any good man always brings about deep separation anxiety for those who experienced meaningful and enriching involvement by him in their lives. It is compounded in the sudden loss of an inspired and extraordinarily effective teacher.

Curtis Hall truly had all of those gifts that are essential for an inspiring and successful teacher (humor, wisdom, knowledge, charisma, compassion, a love for his students, and a dynamic presentation style). It was the unique and bountiful combination of these pedagogic talents in Curtis Hall that generated the tearful pronouncement of irreplaceable by the packed church auditorium of students, former students, friends, and family who attended his funeral at Jackson's Woodland Hills Baptist Church on April 29.

My grief lies partially in the loss of a special friend and my Sunday School teacher. My grief is compounded by the realization that this pronouncement of irreplaceable teacher is absolutely true.

Jimmy Cotten  
Jackson

### Thanks to Olivers

Editor:

My name is Rana Burt, and I will be graduating from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary this May. I will be receiving my Master of Arts degree in Religious Education. The reason I am writing is because I am very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Oliver for their gift to the Baptist Foundation fund. I have been a recipient of a scholarship in their name for the three years that I have attended seminary, and I feel it quite appropriate to let fellow Mississippi Baptists know how very giving the Olivers have been and how very much it has helped.

My husband and I are currently serving at First Baptist Church in Marietta, Oklahoma. My husband is the associate pastor and we are the children's worship coordinators. This is a part-time job position, as we are both full-time students.

If you have any room in the Baptist

Record to recognize them, I would greatly appreciate it. You may remember running an article on my husband and me last Spring. We were introduced by the Olivers and have been very happily married for 16 months.

My husband, Bob, will finish his third semester in the master of divinity program and will have two more years after this semester. If we can ever help you in any way by informing you about Southwestern or any need that might require Mississippi seminary students, feel free to get in touch with us. We appreciate the work that you are doing in Mississippi.

Rana E. Burt  
Fort Worth

### European anniversary

Editor:

The European Baptist Convention will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary Oct. 23-26 in Kaiserslautern, West Germany.

There are many former members of European Baptist Convention churches living in your state. We want to hear from them as we plan for the celebration. We invite and need personal anecdotes and stories which could help in the production of a historical skit. Former members may send any anecdotes or stories to the Program Planning Committee c/o the convention office at Sonnenberger Str. 60, 6200 Wiensbaden, Federal Republic of Germany.

James E. Foster  
Wiesbaden FRG

### "No respecter"

Editor:

I would like to respond to this week's article on different races. Jesus said, "Have no respect for persons," which means, no one is better than anyone else. He said also: "Love the brethren." That means everyone. He also said that anyone with hate will not see the father. If you will read your geography, our color of skin matches the climate in which we live. If you read the Bible you will see there is a lot spoken against slavery.

Doris Middleton  
Leakesville

### Meet God's demands

Editor:

For 10 years we Southern baptists have spent more time in demeaning one another and seeking oftentimes undeserved honors and self glory than in prayer to God to show us the way out of this senseless dilemma, I am afraid, and to show us how unity and usefulness can be restored in winning the lost world to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The devil has had a heyday. He is this world's greatest politician. He tried his art out on Jesus in the wilderness.

If the devil can't damn our souls in an eternal hell, he never gives up. His next move is to seek to destroy God's children's influence for good and usefulness in this sin-cursed world. He

has been very successful in doing so in recent years. Read Southern Baptist statistics. They are becoming alarming.

In a few days Southern Baptists are to meet in Las Vegas, Nev., the gambling capital of our nation. God has a purpose in permitting this. What an opportunity! yes, for us to demonstrate what the gospel of our Christ means to us. We agree with the apostle Paul, who told the Romans, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth . . . For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith . . . The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:16-17.

"If we say we have no sin (the past 10 years) we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:8-9.

Let us all confess our sin, repent, and turn our Southern Baptist Convention into the power that will bring us truly to honor and glorify our God, who has great things for us to do.

If we meet God's demands, this Southern Baptist Convention will be the greatest in all of our glorious history (not financially, which is secondary) when we commit ourselves to the leadership of the Holy Spirit to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus, to proclaim the gospel of Christ and practice his instructions to love God with (Continued on page 8)





# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, May 18, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## Keith Salter, gold medalist

A gold medal, Who wouldn't like to get one? Keith Salter wanted one enough to work for it. This year, in January, he reached the goal he'd been swimming toward for 11 years. He won not one, but two gold medals — and three silver ones — at the World Games for the Deaf in Christchurch, New Zealand.

He learned to swim when he was seven. Afternoons now, he swims a couple of hours. He's done that year-round since he was eight. During the swim competition season, August-March, he usually swims twice a day, three hours in afternoons and 1½ hours mornings. If you added up all the hours, I wonder, how many full days — or how many of Keith's 19 years have been spent in the water!

I happen to know Keith because he worked one summer at the Baptist Building, where his dad, Larry, is a consultant with the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Larry and his wife, Connie, were in New Zealand with their son when he won the medals. They were also with him the day in April when the Mississippi Senate adopted a resolution commending and congratulating Keith for his outstanding performance at Christchurch. From a balcony in the Capitol, I watched as they presented him a copy of the document.

Keith, a Delta State University

freshman, was one of 14 members of the U.S. Swim Team competing in the games in New Zealand. There were 245 deaf USA athletes in the competition, among 1,400 competitors from 32 countries.

He earned a gold medal in the 400-meter medley swim relay, posting a total time of 4:11.76, and he broke the American record for the deaf in the 100-meter backstroke with a time of 1:03.2, for which he won a silver. Besides this, he won a silver medal in the free relay and a silver medal in the 200-meter backstroke. He won another gold medal in the 100-meter backstroke medley relay. He placed fifth in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly, and sixth in the 100-meter freestyle.

Born profoundly deaf, Keith grew up at Brandon. The Salters live at Crossgates — 78 Pine Cove, Brandon. It was as part of the Crossgates Swim Team that Keith first competed, and later as member of the Jackson Sunkist Swim Team. He began his studies at Magnolia Speech School, but in second grade he entered public school in Brandon. A skillful lip reader, he was graduated in 1988 from high school in Brandon, 12th in a class of 250. Indeed, I was not surprised to hear he'd been selected "Most Courteous" in his class.

His high grades are continuing at the university, where he's a Dean's List student with a 3.4 grade average.

His swimming skills resulted in his receipt of a full scholarship at Delta State, where he made all-conference this year with the swim team.

Though he does not plan further World Games competition, he continues to compete with the university swim team. Earlier this year, he and another teammate set a school swimming team record.

Following Keith's return home from New Zealand, Mayor Manning Cooper declared Feb. 5 Keith Salter Day in Brandon. The same day was Keith Salter Day at First Baptist Church, Brandon; Larry Milner, chairman of deacons, presented him a plaque from the church. At age nine, Keith was baptized at First Church, Brandon, where he is still a member. When he is in Cleveland, he attends First Baptist Church there. Frankly, I think he's a credit to Mississippi Baptists, and I'm proud he is one of us!

His major at Delta State is occupational therapy. After university, he said, he hopes to study at University Medical Center, to become an occupational therapist.

As the Senate's resolution pointed out, "This outstanding achievement by this exceptional young man is an inspiration to the people of his community, his church, and to all the people of the state of Mississippi . . ."

Once more, Keith — congratulations! —



Keith Salter, who won gold and silver medals in swimming competition at World Games for the Deaf in Christchurch, New Zealand, speaks to the Mississippi Senate, following his receipt of a resolution issued in his honor. Senator Barbara Blanton of Rankin County, left, presented to Keith a copy of the resolution. At right are Keith's parents, Connie and Larry Salter of Brandon.

## Trustees to SBC committees, commissions are nominated

NASHVILLE (BP) — Trustees to serve on the commissions and committees of the Southern Baptist Convention have been nominated by the 1989 Committee on Nominations.

Robert F. Loggins Sr., mission pastor at Glendale Memorial church,

St. Louis, Mo., was nominated to replace Roy D. Raddin of Greenville, Miss., who is ineligible for re-election.

Nominated to second term on the Public Affairs Committee was Robbie Hughes, a member of First Church, Jackson, Miss.

## Volunteers finish Jamaica projects

By Eric Miller and Jim Burton  
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Jamaica's lush green countryside once again gleams with metal roofs on Baptist churches, thanks to more than 500 Baptist volunteers from 17 states and Canada.

About 180 of the 286 Baptist churches on the Caribbean island sustained damage totaling about \$2 million during Hurricane Gilbert Sept. 12, 1988.

Jamaica was the first overseas volunteer missions project for Canadian Baptists, said Heather Steeves, national volunteer coordinator for the Canadian Baptist Federation. Cameron Byler, disaster relief coordinator for the Southern Baptist

Brotherhood Commission, helped initiate Canadian involvement, and the federation worked through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in sending volunteers.

By late April, volunteers had refurbished 110 churches, 12 pastors' houses, one all-purpose building, one home for underprivileged girls, three teachers' cottages, one school and one vestry, said John Baxley, on-site project coordinator and trustee of the Brotherhood Commission.

Repair of the churches began Jan. 2 and is scheduled for completion May 20, said Baxley, a retired fast-food chain franchisee from St. Augustine, Fla. Heavily damaged churches were repaired first, he said.

The Foreign Mission Board spent \$200,000 in FMB disaster relief funds on Jamaican church reconstruction, said Boyd O'Neal of the board's volunteers-in-missions department. The board also sent 50 tons of beans, 25 tons of rice, five tons of dried milk, some cooking oil and baby food, all costing \$33,000.

In addition, Southern Baptists donated through the board about 43 tons of food, including flour, rice, beans, fruits, vegetables, meats, baby food, pasta, sugar, shortening, dried potatoes and canned milk.

Reconstruction sites usually drew a crowd of church members and curious people, Baxley noted. Immediately following completion of a

church, pastors conducted a thanksgiving service of singing, prayer, Scripture reading, testimonies and hugging.

Volunteers finished one church so quickly the "pastor complained that we didn't give time to draw a crowd before it was already over," Baxley said.

Volunteer C.T. Worrell of Rocky Mount, N.C., who worked on Philipo Baptist Church, said, "Hopefully, some day when I get to heaven I'll see these people, who will come up to me and say, 'I came to know the Lord at Philipo Baptist Church in Jamaica.'"

Eric Miller writes for the FMB; Jim Burton for the Brotherhood Commission.

## Panama churches cancel services

(Continued from page 4)

didate Guillermo Endara and his two vice presidential running mates. The three men and others with them were bloodied and one of their bodyguards reportedly was killed.

That night, the Noriega government nullified the election, blaming American interference. Noriega opponents, meanwhile, accused Noriega supporters of stealing, burning, and otherwise destroying thousands of vote-tally sheets.

"We've noticed a stepped-up anti-American situation" ever since the American government charged Noriega with drug trafficking more than a year ago, Cooper said. This is reflected in slogans, military checkpoints at various locations, and the like, he added.

But, he noted, "It's mostly political." The anti-Americanism is not coming from the Panamanian people in general, he said.

"No missionary has been overly harassed," he added. "We have been stopped, and we've had to present credentials and this kind of thing, but no missionary has been molested in the sense that we've been under any kind of danger up to this point."

Cooper said he hopes Southern Baptists will not allow the turmoil in Panama "to cause them to be less concerned for the Panamanian people. There is no open hostility between Panamanians and North Americans."

"The Panamanian people are just as open and as friendly as they can be. They're decent, hard-working people who want good relationships with everybody. They're not trying to thwart our ministry."

Art Toalston writes for the FMR



Arthur Brooks, a Baptist in Jamaica, stands in front of his house after Hurricane Gilbert hit the Caribbean island in September 1988. The tree crashed into his living room as he and his family huddled under a bed. Brooks is a member of a Baptist church repaired by Southern Baptist volunteers. Baptist volunteers from the United States and Canada had materials to repair 180 churches damaged in the storm, but not members' homes. (BP) PHOTO By Joseph Perkins



Southern Baptist volunteer Barry Hoöten of Cullman, Ala., helps replace a roof blown off a Baptist church in Jamaica during Hurricane Gilbert in September 1988. About 180 of the 286 Baptist churches on the Caribbean island sustained about \$2 million in damage during the hurricane. More than 500 Baptist volunteers from 17 states and Canada have been involved in a church repair project, scheduled for completion May 20. (BP) PHOTO By Joseph Perkins





## Powerline for teens

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76156

### What life is all about

#### QUESTION:

I guess it just hit me that my life is just not full and I hope God will fill that void. I have a good home, live in a good part of town, have great parents, but it's just not together. I'm not really what you would call social, but I have my friends and I like to have a good time. Not many of those friends are very religious, and probably if asked they couldn't remember the last time they were in church.

What I'm trying to say is that I would like some help understanding what it is all about.

#### ANSWER:

Your questions concerning your life and "what it is all about" are quite natural. You are at the age when such inquiries begin to disturb any thoughtful young person. I think I can best counsel you

at one vital point.

You shouldn't expect harvest before seed time and growth time. You shouldn't expect maturity without the processes of painful immaturity or victory before the battle. Try to know what it's all about without the inevitable experimentation.

Sometimes young people forget this basic truth. You see, it would be utterly impossible for you to have a sense of fulfillment and a whole round interpretation of life when you are just getting into the age of growth toward maturity. The adolescent years are time for plowing and seeding, and investigating and discovering, and perplexities and dissatisfaction, and sometimes succeeding and sometimes failing, and then starting all over again. Obviously that process isn't going to make anyone gleefully happy. But it's a process that cannot be avoided. So what you do is plow straight through it. And if you make good preparation through these next 10 years, you will come out on the other side a well-rounded personality with great satisfactions and you'll feel you really know what it's all about.

### Boyce offers classes for deaf

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Boyce Bible School will become one of the first schools in the United States to teach theological courses in sign language when it initiates the program next fall.

Four classes will be offered with instructors presenting all lectures in sign, said David Q. Byrd, dean of the school, a division of Southern Seminary that provides ministerial training for people who have not earned college degrees.

The relocation of Deaf Opportuni-

ty Out Reach from Houston to Louisville helped provide the impetus for the new program. It is composed of Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteers working under the the auspices of the denomination's Home Mission Board.

Members travel across the country, doing evangelistic work among the deaf, helping to start deaf congregations and supporting existing deaf work. Director Vesta Bice said a "good number" of the 25 team members will enroll at Boyce.

### Romo honored for service with refugees

MIAMI (BP) — Oscar Romo, director of the language church extension division for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been honored for a quarter century work with refugees to the U.S.

More than 63 religious and political leaders gathered in Miami to honor Romo for his longterm contributions.

The cities of Miami and Hialeah jointly proclaimed the day in his honor.

In addition to the award from the two South Florida cities, Romo also received awards from Cuban civic organizations, the World Refugee Relief, the local Hispanic newspaper Los Tiempos and the Miami Baptist Association.

### Clergy malpractice suit refused

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review a dispute that has been described as the nation's first clergy malpractice suit.

The high court's decision, which was announced in a one-line order April 3, leaves standing a unanimous ruling by the California Supreme Court that individuals who are not licensed as counselors or therapists cannot be held legally liable for failing to provide proper advice or for failing to refer their counselees to licensed therapists.

Walter and Maria Nally sued Grace

Community Church in Sun Valley, Calif., because their son, Kenneth, committed suicide in 1979 after receiving counseling from members of the church's staff. The Nallys charged the staff members with malpractice for failing to urge their son to seek psychiatric help or to inform them he was contemplating a second suicide attempt.

The couple contended the church did not properly train its counselors and that the counselors who talked with their son discouraged him from seeking further medical help.

### Futral to get Golden Arrow

Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will



Futral

receive the "Order of the Golden Arrow" award from Mississippi College during the Fifty-Year Club banquet set for 6 p.m., Friday, May 19, in the B.C. Rogers Student Center on campus.

The "Order of the Golden Arrow" award is one of the highest honors bestowed by Mississippi College. It is reserved for those alumni or friends of the college who have excelled in their chosen profession. The award presentation will be made by Lewis Nobles, president of the college.

Futral will be addressing the Fifty-Year Club banquet. The club is composed of those individuals who were graduated from Mississippi College 50 or more years ago. The president is John E. Stone of Jackson, a 1933 graduate of the college and retired city attorney for the City of Jackson. Stone is an active layman at Broadmoor Church.

### Eight from state graduate at Mid-America

Of the 45 May 12 graduates of Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., the following are from Mississippi:

Robert E. Collier, master of divinity, associate pastor of Desoto Woods Church, Horn Lake.

Kenneth Pegram, master of divinity, pastor of Highland Church, Senatobia.

Charles (Chuck) Smith, master of arts in religious education, youth minister, Evansville Church, Coldwater.

Gary W. Stafford, master of divinity, currently resides in Olive Branch, is involved in youth ministry of Broadway Church, Southaven.

Fred Thompson, master of divinity, minister of youth and music, New Prospect Church, Olive Branch.

W. Kenneth Thornton, master of divinity, (son of Louis Thornton of Vicksburg) pastor of Berean Church, Memphis.

Steve Veteto, master of divinity, who will be continuing his studies in the ThD. program of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis.

Bryan Webb, master of divinity, pastor of Shady Grove Church, New Albany.

### Meet God's demands

(Continued from page 6)  
all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind . . . and our neighbor as ourselves.

Let us go, Southern Baptists, for God and his glory.

Carl Joseph Olander  
Ridgeland

C. J. Olander will be 95 years of age in September. He was instrumental in the beginning of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. — Editor

### Mississippi Baptist activities

May 22-28 Associational Emphasis Week (HMB) Emphasis  
May 23 Shared Ministry Skills for Church Growth Conference; Baptist Building; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CAPM)  
Senior Adult Choir Festival; Morrison Heights, Clinton; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CM)

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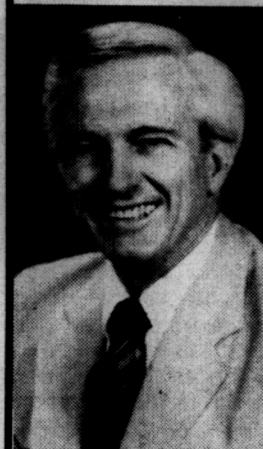
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## Just for the Record



Acteans of Poplar Springs Church, Newton County recently sponsored a walk-a-thon and raised \$2,375 for the Children's Village. Thirty-five members walked five miles. Ages ranged from Becky West, 8, to Mrs. Edna Edwards, 79.

Elam Church (Yalobusha) will have memorial services on May 28. Jimmy Martin, pastor, will bring the 11 a.m. service. Lunch at noon with singing in the afternoon.

If more people would abide by the tablets brought down by Moses from Mount Sinai, they'd need fewer tablets from the drug store.

## Lewis tells missionaries to be ministry-minded

ATLANTA (BP) — Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, urged 116 newly commissioned missionaries to be ministry-minded as they seek to evangelize the nation's unchurched population.

Lewis, who spoke during the spring commissioning service at Union Baptist Church here, told the home missionaries: "When we're doing the things God would have us do, people will come to us, follow us and want to know why we are doing those things. That's when we can share Jesus with them."

Linda Furr of Sledge, Miss., who will be serving with her husband Jimmy in Nashville, Tenn., shared how as

a youth she believed she would one day serve as a missionary in Africa.

After attending a World Missions Conference a few years ago she felt the call to home missions, Furr said. Now she will represent Southern Baptists as a missionary to the cults and people of various faiths.

"We need foreign missionaries in all the countries of the world, but we need to remember that the people of the world are also coming to the United States in great numbers, bringing their religions with them. We need missionaries who can reach them with the news of the true God who can transform their lives," she said.

The 116 missionaries will serve in 35 states and Canada.

## Brotherhood pilots new national training approach

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — A new training approach for Royal Ambassador counselors, directors, and committeemen called RA University has been developed by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

"RA University is the most extensive Royal Ambassador leadership training program we've ever provided," said Karl Bozeman, national director for Lad and Crusader RAs. "This may very well set the pattern for future Royal Ambassador national training programs. By using a college campus setting, we have been able to reduce the cost factor significantly."

More than 300 RA leaders have

preregistered for the RA University training conference, promising to make the four day event the largest national training event in RA history, Brotherhood officials said.

Scheduled for May 25-28 at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., RA University will fill a training gap by providing extended classroom sessions at a centrally located national training facility, Brotherhood leaders said.

Participants will choose from a variety of courses and instructors and have opportunities to apply new skills in practice laboratories.

## Eugene Stockstill, deacon, dies

Eugene H. Stockstill, 60, of Jackson, a certified financial planner, died of heart failure May 8.

Services were held May 10 at First Baptist Church of Jackson.

Stockstill, a native of Hattiesburg, had lived in Jackson for 18 years. He was a certified financial planner with Planned Estates Services and was a deacon and longtime Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church of Jackson. He was chairman of the Christian Business Men's Committee

of the North Jackson Y.M.C.A. and board chairman of Ballet Magnificat.

Stockstill was graduated from Mississippi College in 1950 with a bachelor of arts degree in history and received bachelor of divinity and doctorate of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

Survivors include: wife, Martha; sons, Eugene H. Stockstill Jr. and I.L. "Lee" Stockstill, both of Jackson; mother; and sister.

## Broadway moves to Northwest

Broadway Church has moved into the Northwest Association in Mississippi, from Memphis. It was received by the Northwest Association's Executive Committee into fellowship, April 8. Bobby Moore is the Broadway pastor.

## Names in the news

J. E. Moak, a native of Bogue Chitto, and pastor of First Church, Moultrie, Ga. has announced his retirement after 26 years as pastor, effective July 30. He has served in the pastorate for 40 years. In Mississippi he served at Topisaw in Lincoln County; Mt. Zion in Franklin County, and New Palestine in Picayune. His home church was Mt. Pleasant in Bogue Chitto. He has recently completed his second term as a trustee of New Orleans Seminary.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Mary Speidel, coordinator of news services at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., will become a staff writer in the news and information services department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, June 12.

Pat Sullivan was ordained to the gospel ministry at Pleasant Valley Church, Franklin County, April 29. He served as interim pastor at Pleasant Valley Church for seven months before he was called as full-time pastor in January. He served as a Gideon for four years.

Miss Shelly Taxler, will be in concert at White Oak Church, Sunday, May 21, at 7 p.m.

She began singing at age 12 and gave her first Christian concert at age 14. She has had five years of vocal training and four years of piano.

She performed at the 1986 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night at the Coliseum in Jackson and has performed for Junior Miss pageants in Mississippi.

Shelly is a two-time winner of the State Gospel Music Contest held in Forest. This spring Shelly was chosen to participate in the Miss Mississippi Pageant in Vicksburg as "Miss Morton, 1989."

Shelly is available for concerts, church performances and other events. She may be reached at 601-269-3424.

West Jackson Church, Jackson, will honor its church secretary, Mrs. Dot Kinard, with a reception after the worship service on May 21. Ms. Dot as she is known has been with West Jackson Church since January 23, 1974.



Kinard

Harlis G. Martin has retired from active pastorate due to health reasons. His ministry of the last 30 years has been in Alabama and Mississippi. He and his wife now reside in Ashland, Ala.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A former businessman now working for a church in Texas will enlist Southern Baptist lay people to participate in global evangelization strategies overseas.

Mike Barnett, 36, has been named transnational adviser by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, effective May 1. Barnett will oversee enlistment for the "tentmaking" and "Baptists living abroad" programs.

Barnett has been minister of missions at Gambrell Street Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, for the past year and a half.

Thursday, May 18, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## Staff changes

Billy Selby, pastor of First Church, Days, Northwest Association, has resigned.

Burn Page has accepted a call as pastor of First Church, Wiggins. He will be moving to Wiggins in late May and his first Sunday in the pulpit will be June 11. He is leaving a pastorate at Madden Church, Leake County, where he has served since 1984. Page is a Georgia native and received his B.S. degree from Auburn University.



Page

He received his master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary and is currently working on his doctor of theology degree at New Orleans Seminary.

James Clutter has accepted the call of Mt. Manna Church, Northwest Association, as pastor.

Pleasant Valley Church, Meadville, ordained its pastor, Pat Sullivan, to the gospel ministry on April 29. He, his wife, Leonide, and children, Tasha, Tara, Tanya, and Patrick reside in the parsonage.

## Homecomings

Mt. Moriah, Weir: May 21; Davie S. Guess, pastor, message; church history by O. N. Harris; dinner following services; special singing by Witness during afternoon.

Antioch (Lawrence): May 28; James Watts, former pastor, will speak at 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall at noon; singing in afternoon; offering will be taken for cemetery; John Hedgepeth, pastor.

Peach Creek, (Panola): 140th anniversary, May 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; morning worship at 11; covered dish dinner after morning service; afternoon service; no evening service; Charles Gray, former pastor, now with Juvenile Court in Memphis, guest speaker; Charles Page, pastor; Herbert Petermann, music director.

## Revival dates

Van Winkle, Jackson: May 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Paul Jackson, evangelist from Arkansas, preaching; Ferrell Cork, Jr., pastor.

Black Hawk (Carroll): May 22-26; services, 7:30 p.m.; Bernette Fielder, pastor, Bethany, Slate Springs, evangelist; Paul Vaughn, music; Bill Blount, pastor.

First of Sharon, Laurel: May 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Billy Joe Pierce, Benton, La., evangelist; Bob Presley, music; Nelson Crozier, pastor.

First, Purvis: May 21-25; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Thurs., noon-day luncheon and Bible study and 7 p.m.; John Wilton, Long Beach, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale; Louis Nicolosi, interim pastor.

Ebenezer (Holmes): May 21-24; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m., Bobby Connerly, former pastor, Greenville, preaching, followed by lunch in the fellowship hall; Sun.-Wed. 7:30 p.m.; Ed McDaniel, Jackson, evangelist; Robbie Roberts, Sallis, minister of music; Billy Barron, pastor.

Crossgates, Brandon: May 28-31; 7 nightly; Bill Stafford, evangelist; Greg Warnock, music; Tommy Vinson, pastor.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## To serve, or not to serve, God

By Bert Breland  
Acts 21:17-22:29

When Paul and his company arrived in Jerusalem they were received gladly by the church; however, when he met with James, the head of the Jerusalem church, the sweet reception turned a little sour. Paul was confronted by a Christian viewpoint that was contrary to the gospel he was preaching and that Stephen had preached. This viewpoint was "Jewish Christianity." According to Luke, it had flourished in Jerusalem. In fact, in verse 20 Luke refers to myriads of those who have believed. Translated, this would mean thousands upon thousands who had believed this Jewish-Christian version of the gospel, with the emphasis on Jewish. These people had accepted Jesus as the Christ, but they were holding onto a rigid Pharisaism concerning the law.

James warned Paul that the Jewish Chris-



Breland

### BIBLE BOOK

tians in Jerusalem had been taught that Paul was preaching that Jews could abandon the law. Of course, this wasn't true, but Paul had been preaching that Gentiles didn't have to worry with ritual laws such as circumcision. Those in the Jewish-Christian party may have feared that Jewish people would eventually adopt this attitude toward the law. Whatever the case, the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem had developed a great deal of animosity toward Paul. James' advice was well taken by Paul and he prepared himself for the Jewish celebration and even paid the way for several other Jewish brethren in an effort to prove that he still expected Jewish people to observe Jewish customs and laws, even if they were Christians.

One of the disturbing things about this experience was the fact that James and other leaders in the Jerusalem church who could have defended Paul on these charges had apparently made no effort. It should also be noted that this Jewish-Christian gospel which had

found acceptance with Judaism and the state, has no continuing tradition as does the gospel which Stephen and Paul proclaimed.

Despite James' efforts to avoid trouble within the Jewish community, the trouble came anyway. Some amongst the Jews, and it is not clear if any of the Christian Jews took part, gathered a mob to throw Paul out of the temple. The reason was that they thought he had brought a Gentile into the temple. Having no real proof, only their fears and a supposition, they slammed the doors of the temple both to the Gentile and the Gentile-lover. There is a sad contrast to be made here. While the doors of the kingdom of God were being flung wide open with the preaching of the gospel to all people everywhere, the doors of Judaism were being closed even harder. Eventually, the Jewish-Christians would have no place and little witness in the Jewish community.

Shortly after the uproar had begun, Paul was arrested and was being taken away when he convinced them to allow him to speak to the crowd. When the crowd heard him begin to speak in Hebrew they were very quiet because some had it in their minds that he was a Greek.

Paul began his speech by giving his testimony about how God had saved him through Jesus Christ. From Paul's day to ours, one's personal testimony is still the most effective tool that we have in convincing people that Jesus is the Christ. It is interesting that the people sat quietly and listened intently while Paul explained to them that everything they had believed all of their lives was going to have to change drastically if they were going to be rightly related to God. This didn't seem to bother them at all. The trouble began when he said that God had sent him to the Gentiles. At this point they became irrational, refusing to listen, and even crying out that "he ought not to live" (RSV). It is indeed a sad indictment on these supposedly religious people that racism could generate such fear and frenzy in their lives. For those who feel that God loves one race above another, they will have a rude awakening when they arrive in heaven, and have to face a God who loves all people and sent his only son to die for the "whole" world.

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

## Some Jews attack Paul in Jerusalem

By Greg Martin  
Joshua 24:2-5, 13-15

The speeches in Joshua 23 and 24 were made near the end of Joshua's life. Like his predecessor, Joshua was concerned that after his passing the children of God might turn away from following the Lord. His addresses were given to encourage and challenge the people always to remain faithful to the one true God. The latter speech in particular was given to force the people to choose between serving the Lord God and the pagan deities. From the last chapter of Joshua's book and life, we can learn that God calls his people to respond to his unfailing care with reverent awe and obedient service.

Joshua began his discourse by referring to God's graciousness in Israel's past (verses 1-13). First, he mentioned the Lord's calling of Abraham from a pagan land. As the father of the faith, Abraham had humble, pagan begin-



Martin

### LIFE AND WORK

nings. His ancestors worshipped strange gods. God called Abraham from the pagan worship. He led him to the land of Canaan. The guidance of God in Abraham's life was one reason his descendants should fear and serve the Lord.

In our day there are many, like Abraham, who have come into the community of faith out of pagan backgrounds. Many believers have no spiritual roots or religious heritage. God's calling them from unbelieving environments is evidence of his care. His leading them out of darkness and into the light is a good reason for them, as well as their descendants, to continue to serve the Lord.

Another evidence of God's concern is seen in his enabling the people to overcome difficult circumstances. Joshua referred to the Exodus experience as another evidence of God's care (verse 5). It was the Lord who sent Moses and Aaron to lead the people out of Egypt. It was the Lord who plagued the Pharaoh until he finally relinquished his control over the Hebrew

children. It was the Lord who parted the Red Sea in order for the Israelites safely to escape the Egyptian pursuers. God had done so much for the nation. His past help and enablement to overcome difficulties was another reason for Joshua's generation to serve the Lord.

God's past help and deliverance is a reason modern day Christians should serve the Lord. If it were not for the Lord's help during periods of trials, many of us would buckle under the pressure. His help in the past is encouragement for trusting his assistance in the future.

The Lord's provision is another reason to serve him. For Israel, the Lord had given them the land, the cities, and the food that they had not labored for (verse 13). When the people crossed the Jordan River, they didn't own anything in Canaan. However, with the passage of time and the grace of God, the children of Israel became the rightful owners of much of Canaan.

From this we can learn that our Lord is a gracious provider. He often provides for us more than we can provide for ourselves. This, too, is a reason he is worthy of our reverence

and service.

In the 14th verse, Joshua concludes his history lesson and focuses on the need for the people to vow to serve the Lord. God had done so much for the people, it was only logical that they commit themselves to remain faithful to the one true God. Joshua called on the people to "fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness." That meant to put away the pagan gods of their fathers. It meant to willfully choose to be loyal to the God of Abraham and Moses.

Reverence and service are the appropriate responses to God's care, leading, protection, and provision. Unfortunately, many want God's concern, but do not care to have reverential obedience. The obedience is a personal choice that each person needs to make. The choice needs to be made daily. When it is, God's people will discover the joy that Jesus intended for their lives.

The choice to serve God is a personal choice for every individual. Today the choice is yours.

Martin is pastor, Commission Road Church, Long Beach.

## Called to new life — through our Enabler

By Gary G. Berry  
Ephesians 4:27-5:4, 18-20

A Christian is not a person who has decided to better himself by being religious. Paul made it clear in II Corinthians 5:17 that any man who is in Christ is a "new creation." God did not do a redecorating job on believers; He did a rebuilding job.

Since Christians are new creations, they are called to live Christlike lives in the power of the Holy Spirit. That is the only way one can live a Christlike life. How many Christians should repent of ungodly practices and claim the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to overcome these practices? One may see this passage as a practical expression of the life believers are called to live in obedience to Christ.

This call involves laying aside ungodly lifestyles (verses 17-22). The Gentile believers in Ephesus and other places who had responded to the gospel had the problem still of living



Berry

### UNIFORM

in a pagan environment. They were pressured by their past and by their surroundings. The scripture is clear, however, in explaining that Christians are people who have new life and consequently express a new way of life. The old self with its motivations is to be laid aside (verse 22).

The call to new life involves being renewed in the spirit of the mind (verse 23). Paul is stressing the truth that a genuine believer is responsible for acting in the power of the Holy Spirit to throw off the old manner of life and to be made fresh or new in the spirit of their mind. Salvation works from the inside out, not from the outside in.

In verse 22 it is clear that the Christian life is not a void. The Christian has put on the "new man." This new self is created in redemption after the likeness of God. As a result, the believer's character bears a resemblance to God's character which is marked by "true righteousness and holiness" (verse 24). Chris-

tians should understand that sin will require one to repent and reaffirm his dependence upon God. The likeness of God is not achieved in anyone's life by an easy, instantaneous burst of sanctification. Becoming Christlike is more of a process which requires frequent repentance and renewal.

Paul gives several specific applications of what it means to put off the old nature. Dishonesty is ended (verse 25). Lying has no place in the Christian life. Moreover, the Christian prevents the devil from finding an opportunity to do his work. This is accomplished by the Christian's refusal to let the sun go down on his anger (verses 26-27). Churches, even Sunday School classes, are filled with people whose hearts harbor bitterness and anger toward other Christians. This should not be understood as acceptable Christian behavior since it hinders the working of God.

Christians are to work and share with others rather than steal or try to get something for nothing (verse 28). There are no free lunches for freeloaders.

In matters of speech, the Christian should speak only that which builds up (verse 19). Most churches could experience something akin to

Pentecostal revival if "nitpickers" and "aginers" were suddenly to begin speaking words which edified, or built up the church, the members, and the Lord.

By such practices as those mentioned in verses 25-29, Christians may grieve the Holy Spirit (verse 30). He is God (Spirit) and this is a sin against him for which many should repent.

All despicable attitudes should be discarded (verse 31). Nothing is Christlike about bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander as mentioned here. Such attitudes have no place in the heart or life of a Christian. Instead, Christians are to be imitators of God (verse 32; 5:1). The goal of the believer's life is not some other weak person, but the very character of God.

The lengthy list of practical expressions of the Christian's life is continued from 5:1-20. When the believer's life is shaped by Christ, he walks in love (verse 2), protects personal purity (verses 3-4), is filled with the Holy Spirit, sings through life (verse 19), and gives thanks in all things (verse 20). One must understand, however, that such a life is impossible without the filling of the Holy Spirit and his resident power as our Enabler.

Berry is pastor, Temple, Hattiesburg.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

## The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027, (601) 922-2242

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hope-fully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**Jan. 16, 1989-  
Mar. 9, 1989  
MEMORIALS**

Rev. R. L. Hunnicutt  
Bethesda Baptist Church  
Mr. Will Hunt  
Mr. & Mrs. Delbert L.  
Haynes  
Mrs. Ruby Lee Hutcherson  
Flynt & Sibyl Hobgood  
Mr. George W. Hutto, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. Otho Hilderbrand  
Mrs. Jeanie Irwin  
Mr. & Mrs. M. D. Dunn, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Farmer  
Ms. Carole Lea Lucas  
Jean James  
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Selman  
Sarah Lyle James  
Frank & Elizabeth Pajerski  
Mr. Louis Jenkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry C. Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Walters  
Mr. William Lester Jenkins  
Elizabeth Hamberlin  
Mrs. Ada Mae Hilderbrand  
Yale Street Baptist Church  
Mrs. Eva Mae Jenkins  
Miss Beatrice Brownlee  
Mr. V. W. Jennings  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl B. Allen  
Mr. Norman Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. M. D. Dunn, Sr.  
Mrs. Ola Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Kelly  
Robert Beacher Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry W.  
Carpenter  
Virginia Johnson  
John House Sunday School,  
Oak Forest BC  
Husband of Mrs. Anne A.  
Jolley  
Mrs. Anne A. Jolley  
Charlie Frank Jones  
Merle Furlow Sunday School,  
Wesson  
Thad A. Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L.  
Craig  
James F. Jordan  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman M.  
Mason  
Mr. & Mrs. W. I. Kelley  
Mrs. La Nelle B. Baxter  
Mrs. Thomas Boyd Kellum, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Mann  
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Officers & Directors,  
Trustmark National  
Bank  
Mr. Dan Henry Kennedy  
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Head  
Mrs. Mollie Keyes  
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Laird Jr.  
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Maude Peebles Kincaid  
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Mr. Oscar King  
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Mr. Bennie Kirkland  
Mr. & Mrs. Dorsey Ray  
Mr. Leon Kirkland  
Mr. & Mrs. Willie B. Badon

Mr. Henry Kitchen  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Lucas  
Mrs. Henri Kitchens  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter  
Dan Knight  
LLL Club, Alta Woods BC  
Mrs. Laura Lambert  
Goss Baptist Church  
Mr. J. M. Lassetter  
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Landrum  
Mrs. Winnie Lawhorn  
Ruth Sunday School, FBC  
Tupelo  
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Ollie Leach  
Mrs. Mary V. Golding  
Julius Leake  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Case  
S. H. Leech  
Hazel & Vernon Hathcock  
David Nathan Legge  
Brothers & Sister of Nathan  
Legge  
Mrs. Bessie Leggett  
Bassfield Baptist Church  
Mr. J. T. Lemley  
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Association  
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Helen & David Jenkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Pentecost  
Mr. & Mrs. Moran M. Pope  
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Mr. & Mrs. James Paul  
Robinson  
Ms. Margaret Cox  
Mrs. Rene Speed  
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Mrs. William T. Lipsey  
Mr. & Mrs. Merle A. Riley  
Muriel Andrews  
Ruth Sullivan  
Mrs. Julia Locke  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Harbin  
Mr. Walter Lofton  
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Miss Jean Rouse  
Mrs. James A. (Margaret)  
Barrow  
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Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Reed, Jr.  
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Mary Lynchard  
Mrs. Henry L. Carson  
Mrs. Katherine Magee  
TEL Sunday School, FBC  
Magee  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Malone  
Mrs. Raymond Felten  
Mr. Joseph Mangum  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gnemi  
Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Murphey Jr.  
Mrs. W. L. (Royce)  
Thompson

Mrs. Allen Mapp  
Mrs. Elizabeth Combs  
Mrs. Elma Mapp  
Marcus & Nelia Kate  
Anderson  
Mrs. Pearlline Mardis  
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Ms. Augusta Peacock  
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Norma Wilcutt  
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Clyde McCalop  
Paul J. Jaggars  
Amanda Leigh McCoy  
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Dr. & Mrs. Bobby L. Adams  
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Mrs. Frances Graper  
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Mrs. Fred L. Melton  
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Mrs. Opal Mese  
Mr. & Mrs. Truett Felder  
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School, Liberty  
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Mrs. Essie F. Meyers  
A. B. Middleton  
Mr. & Mrs. Harris Swayze  
Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Townsend  
Mr. Jack Mikell  
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Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm E.  
Curran  
Brother-in-law of Malco  
Montgo  
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Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Montgomery  
Mr. Joe G. Montgomery Jr.  
Mrs. Mary Nell Moore  
JOY Sunday School, FBC  
Jackson

Willie G. "Bill" Morgan  
Morgan Chapel Baptist  
Church  
Roland Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Bevell

Jill Morrison  
Mrs. Don C. Templeton  
Mrs. Minnie Morrison  
Dr. & Mrs. William L.  
Boteler  
George T. Moulds  
Mrs. Mattie B. Flynt  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Walker  
Mrs. Louis Munn  
Mrs. Frank Shawblosky  
Dr. A. T. Nadeau  
Gracie & Frances  
Defenbaugh

Mr. Carl O. Nash  
Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Nash  
Mr. Tom Nash  
Grace Nash  
Mrs. Lozelle Dowling  
Hal Neill  
Hazel & Vernon Hathcock  
Mr. Cleveland Newton  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Goolsby

Mr. Harold Nichols  
Mr. & Mrs. William A.  
Nichols  
Mrs. Susan Nicholson  
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H. F. Van Nieuwenhuyze  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy L. Webb  
Mrs. Carrie B. Nobles  
Mrs. Leslie S. Turner  
Mark O'Brien  
Ms. Kirk Hill  
Mrs. Ina O'Keefe  
Barton Baptist Church,  
Lucedale  
Timothy J. O'Neill  
Mr. & Mrs. Alanson  
Turnbough  
Mrs. Lois O'Quin  
Mr. C. W. Parker  
Mrs. Mary Obitz  
Mr. & Mrs. Mack V. Furlow  
Sr.  
Mrs. Flora Ochoa  
Ms. Eleanor G. Brown  
Mrs. W. N. Oliver  
Mr. L. Donald Jordan Jr.  
Mrs. Glen Oliver  
Mr. & Mrs. John T.  
Thompson  
Allen Pace  
Mrs. Thomas Fite Paine  
Harmon Page  
Mr. William P. Evans

Lester Palmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Otis P. Key  
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Ms. Bennie G. Cain  
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Mr. & Mrs. Leo Leake  
Mrs. Julia Patton  
Mrs. Charles Hooker  
Mrs. Roy Patton  
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm G. Hight  
Mr. Robert T. "Buddy" Payne  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene B. Faust  
Mary Pear Powell Sunday  
School  
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Thomas

(To be continued)

## The Baptist Children's Village P. O. Box 27 Clinton, Mississippi 39060-0027 SOME RESULTS OF YOUR CHILD CARE MISSION DOLLAR!

1. You help support "one of the outstanding child care agencies in the na-tion" according to peer review representatives.
2. You enabled a young woman who went through our MATERNITY CARE PROGRAM to write — "Thanks for encouraging me when I was discourag-ed . . . for motivating me to keep on learning . . . for providing the most stabilizing months of my life . . .".
3. You caused a father to say with deep emotional expressiveness — "Thanks for guiding my daughter to four years of sobriety through rehabilitation services of your CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY program".
4. A teenager to begin to trust God and "some people" after being rescued from a life of violence and abuse.
5. A father to bring his children for a season to "Mississippi's Largest Fami-ly" because he had lost his job and was not able to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter.
6. A teenager to make such progress in dealing with anger, hostility, rebellion, etc. through spiritual and psychological development that he was joyfu-ly reunited with his grateful parents.
7. A young girl to say the afternoon she entered The Village — "As I read God's Word this morning I prayed this would be the day SEXUAL ABUSE would be over for me".



**MAIL YOUR GIFTS TODAY TO  
The Baptist Children's Village  
P. O. Box 27  
Clinton, Mississippi 39060-0027**

Licensed by  
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## Soviet Union grants permit for more Bibles

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The Soviet Union has granted a permit to the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists to import an additional 100,000 Bibles, according to Alexei Bichkov, AUCECB's general secretary.

This follows a successful campaign last year by the United Bible Societies of the World and Baptist World Alliance which sent 100,000 Russian-language Bibles prior to the celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of Christianity in the Soviet Union. The project was endorsed and promoted by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission of Memphis, Tenn.

According to Denton Lotz, BWA's general secretary-treasurer, the Soviet Baptists initiated the permit request and received it without much trouble.

"For years Baptists in the Soviet Union have been trying to get Bibles," said Lotz, who credits this opportunity to glasnost and perestroika. "The aim of Soviet Baptists is for every

Baptist to have a Bible."

"We don't have to smuggle these Bibles into the Soviet Union," said James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president. "We went in the front door. This has been done legally and above the table."

In 1987, Smith issued a challenge at a BWA meeting in Amman, Jordan, to Baptist Men of the world to raise half of the money needed (\$250,000) to purchase the Bibles which cost \$5 each. Over \$100,000 came from Southern Baptists. No Cooperative Program unified budget funds were used in the effort.

Smith said the first BWA Bibles for Russia campaign was primarily a project for Baptist Men of the world, though most of the support came from Southern Baptists.

Because the Soviet Union is ethnically diverse, the next shipment will include Bibles in German, Estonian, and other languages. Soviet Baptist leaders estimate that each Bible will be read by eight to 10 people.

## A Cambridge adventure of faith: church operates restaurant

CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND (EBPS and CHRISTIAN NEWS WORLD) — The creation of the new "Stone Yard Center" alongside the St. Andrew's Street Baptist Church, Cambridge, has been called "an adventure of faith," and with good reason.

This is the first center of church ministry of its kind in England. The hub of the project, the restaurant area, is now completed and operating, as are other facilities. There are plans for a drop-in center and lunch club for the elderly, and for a counseling center with volunteers providing a listening ear and a friendly word and with specialist professional help. Pastor Michael Quicke states, "We began in 1981 with limited ideas and timid faith." The restaurant now seats 100 and serves as a bridge between the church and the local public. The Job Club, sponsored by the church, is the most successful agency of its kind in the East Midlands.

The primary concern of the church is mission, and mission is at the heart of the vision for the Stone Yard Center. The large project that the church has undertaken is a weighty financial endeavor but the church has been blessed in its endeavor. Quicke said, "Financial gifts have continued to astound us."

## capsules

### California bans creationism

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP) — Creationism has been banned from California's public school science classes under a new policy adopted by the State Board of Education and the state's Science Curriculum Framework and Criteria Committee.

The policy forbids natural science classes to include teaching theories of origins which are based on "religious beliefs." However, the policy will allow teaching of religious theories of origins in social science, history, language, and literature classes.

### Court reaffirms Sunday refusal

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has reaffirmed an individual's right to refuse Sunday employment based on personal religious beliefs.

In a unanimous opinion issued March 29, the high court overturned an Illinois Court decision that denied unemployment benefits to William A. Frazee, who refused to work on Sunday because of his "personal faith in the Lord."

The state panel had rejected Frazee's free exercise claim because he was not a member of an established religious sect with a tenet or belief against Sunday work.

Writing for the court, Justice Byron R. White said, "Undoubtedly, membership in an organized religious denomination, especially one with a specific tenet forbidding members to work on Sunday, would simplify the problem of identifying sincerely held religious beliefs, but we reject the notion that to claim the protection of the free exercise clause, one must be responding to the commands of a particular religious organization."

## Historical Commissions OKs long-range plans, budget

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Historical Commission adopted a long-range plan and revised its next budget during its annual meeting here April 24.

The 1989-95 long-range plan reflects "an effort to give direction to the agency" and was developed in keeping with the commission's convention-assigned program statement, said Executive Director Lynn E. May Jr. The plan divides priorities into three categories: library and archives, publications and communications, and administration.

Library and archives priorities include conducting the new "Documenting the Spirit" local-church history project; increasing automation of library functions; securing adequate staffing; increasing funds for acquisitions and for a study grant program; and conducting a history preservation survey.

Publications and communications guidelines include producing Volume 5 of the "Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists"; preparing 25 historical vignettes for the Southern Baptist sesquicentennial celebration in 1995 and distributing guidelines for celebrating the event; publishing "The Southern Baptist Story" pamphlet series; and enlarging the promotion of Baptist Heritage Month.

Administrative goals include maintaining "objectivity and balance in the preservation, interpretation and com-

munication of Baptist history"; supporting the convention's Bold Mission Thrust global evangelization campaign by providing appropriate historical materials; and making "every reasonable effort to secure financial resources, personnel and equipment needed to achieve the plans and projects set forth in these guidelines."

The 1989-90 budget will be \$578,600 — a drop of \$48,946, or 7.8 percent, from the current budget. It will be a drop of \$70,600, or almost 10.9 percent, from the original 1989-90 budget, approved a year ago.

The commission's 1989-90 Cooperative Program allocation is to be \$492,585. That compares to the current budget's \$502,900 and the original 1989-90 budget's \$566,285.

Trustees also presented their 1989 Distinguished Service Award to H. Leon McBeth, church history professor at Southwestern Seminary. The award recognizes "outstanding contributions to the cause of Baptist history."

Sign on a church bulletin board in Atlanta, Georgia; "Don't keep the faith — spread it."

Those who imagine the world is against them have generally conspired to make it true.

## Jackson explains giving 'options'

By Elizabeth Young

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — Despite talk of possibly becoming independent and withdrawing support from the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget, Richard Jackson has pledged continued support to Arizona Southern Baptist causes.

Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, said he is considering several options, but "none of this would have anything to do with Arizona Baptists. North Phoenix is committed to the work in Arizona . . .

"We would continue to support the work in Arizona and the local association, . . . designating that none of our money goes outside the state to Southern Baptist causes."

Jackson outlined several options that are under consideration because "we just feel like we cannot support the declining emphasis on world missions and the increasing emphasis on political power . . . in the denomination and in the country."

Totally withdrawing SBC Cooperative Program budget support at the SBC level is a "worst-case scenario," he said. The Cooperative Program supports the convention's evangelistic, missionary, educational and church-starting endeavors worldwide.

If North Phoenix decides not to give through the Cooperative Program, he said, "we would most likely continue some giving directly to Southern Baptist causes," such as the Foreign Mission Board and seminary education.

Another option, he said, would be to continue minimal undesignated support to the Cooperative Program but designate most of the funds for Arizona causes, including the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, Grand Canyon College, Arizona Baptist Children's Services and Central Association of Southern Baptists.

Or, he said, North Phoenix might reduce its overall giving. "That is so distasteful to me," he said, but "we're

having to not only do without other programs to give the level we're giving, we're really not making ends meet this way."

Finally, he said, "we might decide to join the conservative movement and give conservatively like they do."

Jackson said he will not make the decision about continued Cooperative Program giving for the church, although he will have to make a decision on a personal level.

"If I were to choose that I had to do this (withdraw from the Cooperative Program), I would not pirate this church out of the convention," he said. "That would be unethical and lacking in integrity."

Elizabeth Young is editor, the Arizona Baptist Beacon.

# SCRAPBOOK

## Do you have time to pray?

As I knelt beside my little boy's bed,  
After a long and hectic day,  
I thought of all the things I needed to be doing;  
I really didn't have time to pray.

He started out as he usually does  
"Dear God, thank you", and he names all his kin.  
Names all the people he's seen that day,  
And all the places he's been.

He names people he's heard us talk about  
Some people he doesn't even know.  
People who mean nothing to him,  
Yet, he remembers their name, and you can tell  
it's not for show.

He makes sure before the "Amen"  
That he's left no one out,  
And closes with "Be with us, God,"  
And in his mind, he has no doubt.

He says "Good night" and closes his eyes,  
And I stand at the door and wait  
Before I rush on to do my chores,  
'Cause by now it's getting late.

But then I stop and look at myself  
And wonder what could take the place  
Of kneeling in prayer with my little boy  
And seeing God face to face.

We sometimes get so wrapped up  
in all the things in this life  
It's hard to be the cook and clean the house  
And still be a good mother and wife.

So I say to you, as well as myself,  
There's nothing that should come before  
Kneeling in prayer with our children  
And talking with our Lord.

Children grow up, but their memories last forever  
The things we teach them, they don't forget.  
When was the last time you prayed with your children?  
Last week, last year, maybe not yet?

I hope that when my little boy grows up  
That he'll always be able to say  
"Of all the things my mother taught me,  
The best thing was to teach me to pray."

—Iris C. Waldrop  
Brookhaven

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